TEXAS SMART DEFENSE DATA PORTAL

BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

TIDC
TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

LIBERAL ARTS
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Public Policy Research Institute

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
Defending Liberty, Pursuing Justice

NLADA
National Legal Aid & Defender Association

BJA Smart Suite Initiatives

The Smart Defense Initiative is one of ten criminal justice projects funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Smart Suite of grant programs. Others are:

- Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)
- Smart Policing Initiative (SPI)
- Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI)
- Smart Pretrial Demonstration Initiative (SPDI)
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
- Second Chance Act Demonstration Program
- Smart Supervision Program (SSP)
- Smart Prosecution Program
- Encouraging Innovation – Field-Initiated Programs.

Review of Texas Smart Defense

Background and Objectives

1. Building on Existing STATEWIDE Data Infrastructure

County Expenditure & Case Data

- ✓ by Court
- ✓ by Type of Counsel
- ✓ By Expenditure Type

County Indigent Defense Plans

Attorney Caseload Data

- ✓ % of practice that is appointed
- ✓ Total # appointments
- ✓ Total $ payments

Grant Awards

- ✓ Formula
- ✓ Discretionary

2. Developed Basic LOCAL Data Elements

TIDC
TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

Recommended Functionality and Data Guidelines for Indigent Defense Technology Projects

- ✓ 50 basic indicators set standards for county-level indigent defense information systems.
- ✓ Advancing from statewide requirements to local self-monitoring capacity.

3. Provided Discretionary Grant Funding for Multi-County Data System Upgrades

Fair Indigent Defense Online

tyler technologies

TechShare

dD defenderData™

4. ACT Smart for Public Defense Portal

- Educate stakeholders
- Convert available statewide data into quality indicator system
- Improve collection and use of data locally

- Offer a snapshot of public defense wellbeing, challenges, and opportunities
- Answer: “What is quality public defense?”

What is QUALITY PUBLIC DEFENSE?

How do we ACHIEVE it?

How do we MEASURE it?

How do we DESCRIBE it?

How do we use it to set STANDARDS?

How do we DISSEMINATE it?

Advisory Input to Date

National Advisors

- Professional Associations
  - American Bar Association
  - National Association of Public Defense
  - National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
  - National Legal Aid and Defenders Association
- Public Defenders
  - Committee for Public Counsel Services (MA)
  - New York State Indigent Defense Services
  - Louisville Metro Public Defender's Office
  - Oregon Public Defender System
- University / Academic
  - Georgia State University College of Law
  - Tulane University School of Law
  - University of Nebraska-Lincoln
  - University of Cincinnati College of Law

February 2016:
Who might use the Smart Defense Portal?

- Entities outside of Texas
- State and local officials
- Planners and analysts
- Attorneys
- Advocates
- Clients and families
- Media
- Academics

February 2016:
What info might users look for?

- Jurisdiction Policies
  - Attorney selection; Appointment methods; $/case; Jurisdiction supports (e.g., mentoring programs); Eligibility determination; Appointment rates
- Quality of Appointed Counsel
  - Type of counsel; Caseloads; Time spent per case; Attorney-client communication; Trial rates; Uncounseled pleas; Special case needs (e.g., bilingual, MH, social workers); Use of experts and investigators
- Case Outcomes (linked to practices)
  - Dismissals; Acquittals; Pleas; Sentences

February 2016: Pitfalls to Avoid?

- Learn from other similar efforts
- Sustained linkages to partners with common interests
- High-quality measures added incrementally
- User-friendly website
  - Easy navigation; Avoid information overload; Clear definitions – avoid jargon
- Downloadable datasets

Project Milestones

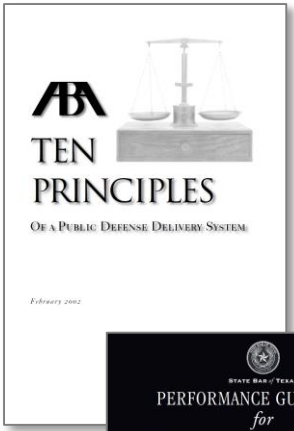
Project Milestones

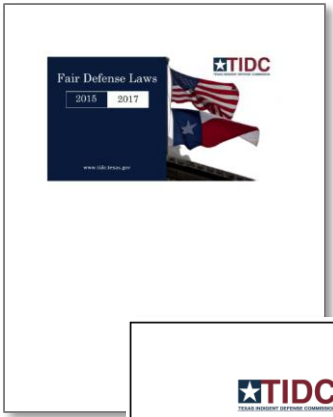
- February 2016: National Advisory Group Webinar
- April 2016: State Advisory Group Meeting
- April 2016: Urban Criminal Justice Planners Meeting
- June 2016: Completed Draft ACT Framework
- July 2016: Pilot Counties Reviewed Draft Framework
- July 2016: Smart Defense Inter-Site Summit (Lansing, MI)
- September 2016: BJA Smart Suite Summit (Washington, DC)
- October 2016: Provided Guidance to Pilot Counties
- October 2016: Planning Integrated Education and Data for Website

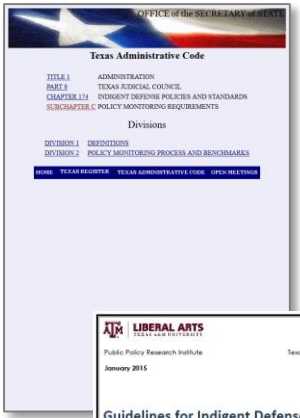
ACT Smart for Public Defense

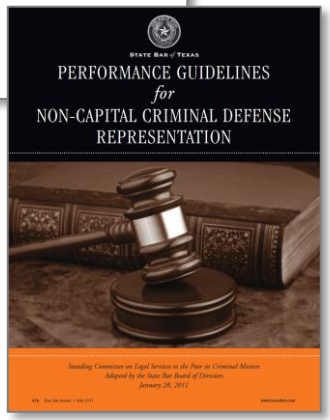
Indicators

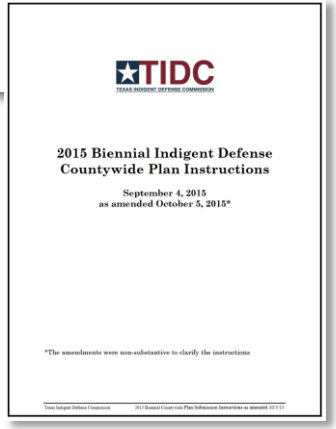
Based on Legal Standards and Professional Guidelines

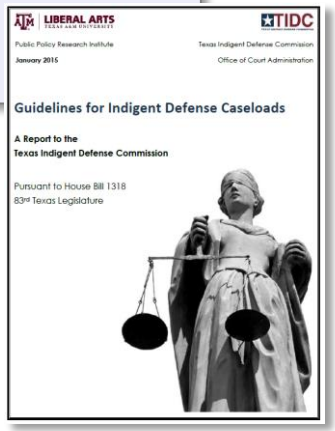












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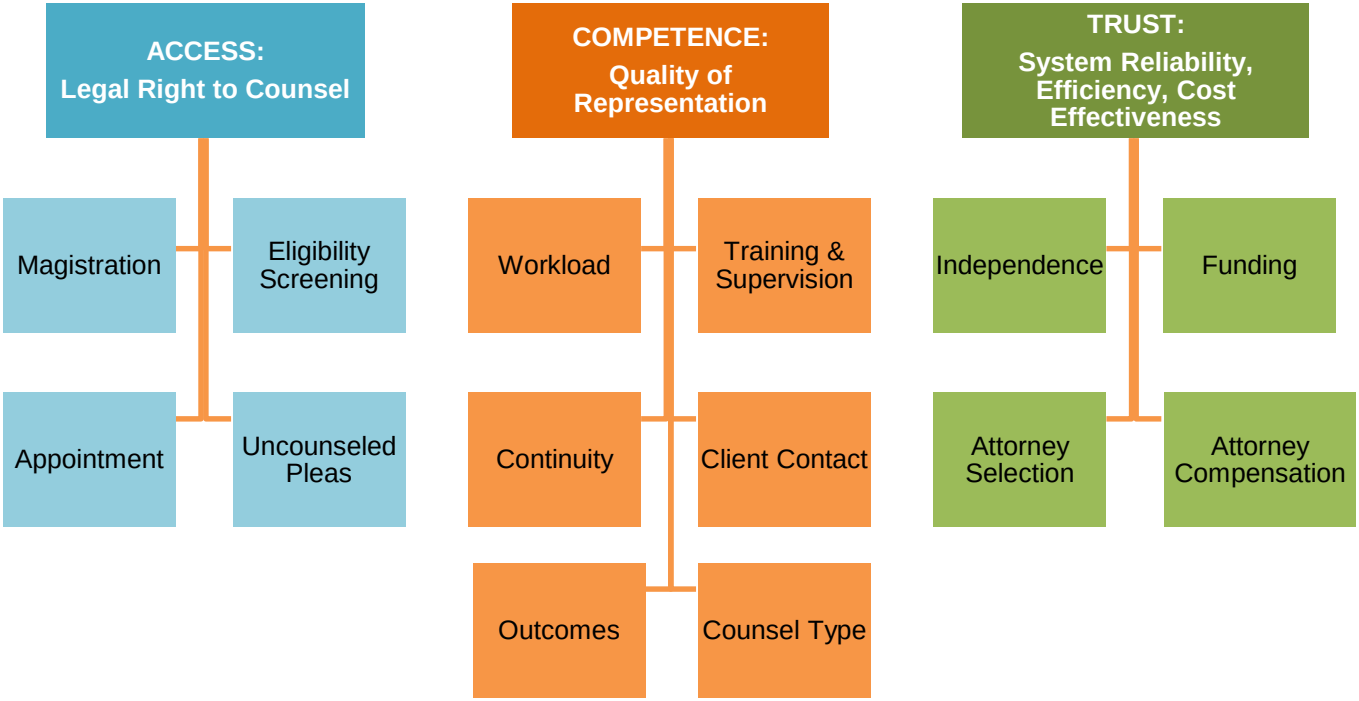
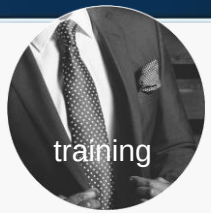
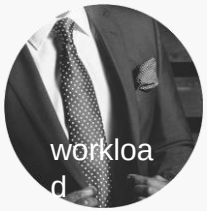
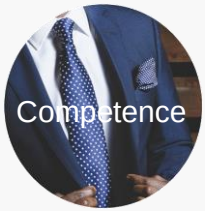


Website Construction







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Next Steps

Pilot County Data Submission

Houston, TX

El Paso, TX

San Antonio, TX

Austin, TX

Dallas, TX

Guidance to Jurisdictions

Texas Indigent Defense Commission's

ACT SMART FOR INDIGENT DEFENSE

Online Quality Indicator System

Pilot Counties' Data Reporting Guidebook

Version 2: November 21, 2016

Instructions for the selection of indigent defense indicators to populate Texas's ACT Smart for Indigent Defense Web Portal.

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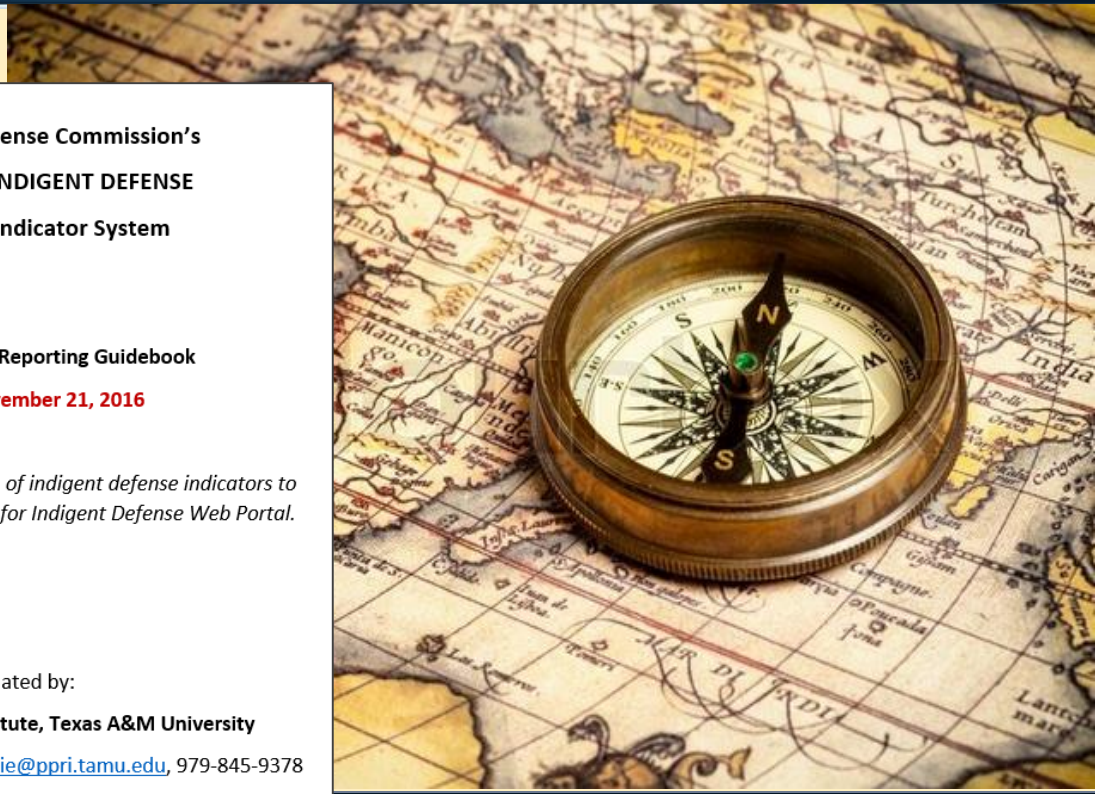

Recognition of Contributors

Pride of LEADERSHIP

RECOGNITION of Early Adopters

Next Generation IT INTEGRATION

USEFUL Data Reports

Discretionary GRANT FUNDING

Role as MENTOR COUNTIES

Technical ASSISTANCE

thoughts

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